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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

June Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Great Lakes Basin	97%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	104%
Lake Superior	109%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	87%
Lake Ontario	94%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

LEVEL news

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 5, Number 7 **July 7, 1997**

Lake Ontario's Level Declines

Levels Continue to Rise on Middle and Upper Lakes

Water levels on all of the Great Lakes except Ontario continued to rise during June. While Lake Superior's level rose less than usual during the month, the increase was larger than usual on Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie.

Dry conditions during the first half of June over the drainage basins of Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron temporarily stopped the seasonal rise in levels on these lakes, but heavier rainfall during the last half of the month caused levels to resume rising. At the end of June, Lake Superior was about 20 cm above average, while Lake Huron was 58 cm above average.

Very heavy rainfall over Lakes St. Clair and Erie's drainage basin at the beginning of June caused a rapid rise in their levels. Lake Erie's level was only two centimetres below the record maximum June level for the lake, which occurred in 1986, while Lake St. Clair was 11 cm below the 1986 record maximum. At month's end Lakes Erie and St. Clair were 70 and 66 cm above average, respectively.

Lake Ontario also experienced dry conditions during the first half of June, and its level declined quickly. However, wetter conditions during the last half of the month temporarily stopped the decline. By month's end, Lake Ontario's level had declined 10 cm from this year's peak level of mid-May, but it was still 23 cm above average.

Lakes Superior and Huron are likely to continue experiencing rising levels during July, but Lakes St. Clair and Erie may be very close to their seasonal peaks for this year, and Lake Ontario's level will likely continue to decline.

If wet conditions should occur over the next several months, Lake Erie's level could equal or exceed the record highs of 1986 through the remainder of the summer. Wet conditions could cause the levels of Lakes Superior, Huron and Erie to remain 10 to 20 cm below record highs and could slow the seasonal decline of Lake Ontario.

The risk of severe damages to shoreline properties during storms this fall is a major concern, particularly for properties along Lake Erie.

With a rapid decline in Ottawa River flows, water levels in Montreal Harbour dropped sharply during June. The monthly average level declined by 1.12 m

June Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Lake Superior	150%
Lake Erie	121%
Lake Huron	110%
Lake Ontario	126%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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from the May average, but it was still 32 cm above average. Levels in the Harbour are expected to continue declining over the next several months.

Heavy Rainfall Boosts Lake Erie's Level

Very heavy rainfall from May 31st to June 2nd over the drainage basins of Lakes Erie and St. Clair led to a rapid rise in the levels of these two lakes.

A low pressure centre stalled south of Lake Erie for the three day period, causing heavy rain. Land stations reported 50 to 80 millimetres of rain, while radar reports indicated even greater amounts fell over Lake Erie. While southwestern Ontario and areas to the south of Lake Erie were being deluged, the Bruce Peninsula, Muskoka, and areas to the north enjoyed warm, sunny conditions.

In response to the rainfall, Lake Erie's level rose by 17 centimetres over four days, while Lake St. Clair's level rose by 14 centimetres.

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Lake Superior Board of Control Public Meeting

The International Lake Superior Board of Control held an open house on the evening of June 17th in co-operation with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In addition to staff and local media, about 15 people, mostly residents of the north shore of Lake Superior attended the meeting. They heard the latest news about high water levels occurring throughout the Great Lakes system and learned how the Board, through the use of its regulation plan, is setting the outflows from Lake Superior to try to balance the high water levels on both Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron. Conservation Authority staff provided useful information to several questions on erosion and shore protection.

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Webmaster
Last Updated: 2001-03-30
Last Reviewed: 2001-03-30

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